

TIMES AND TRAILS

People, Projects and Priorities at Environment and Conservation

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In Vision

Environment and Conservation employees:

Our department is fortunate to have many people and programs that receive national attention and recognition for their exceptional performance. Debbie Arnwine, biologist in the Division of Water Pollution Control, was chosen 2008 EPA Southeastern Biologist of the Year this fall. Last month, Tennessee's State Employee Recycling Program was named winner of the EPA WasteWise State Partner of the Year for the sixth consecutive year.

I am proud we can now add our department's magazine – *The Tennessee Conservationist* – to this list. *The Tennessee Conservationist* received the 2008 Outstanding Media Award from American Trails in November at the National Trails Symposium at Little Rock, Arkansas. Our magazine garnered this national recognition due to its extensive emphasis on trails and trail development in Tennessee along with its effective promotion of trails opportunities at Tennessee State Parks. Congratulations to Louise Zepp, *Tennessee Conservationist* editor, and Fran Wallas, attorney in our department's Office of General Counsel and regular contributor of the series "Great Hikes in Tennessee State Parks," for their leadership in helping our magazine secure this well-deserved national acclaim.

At the same time we celebrate these honors and awards, I want to acknowledge the current economic downturn and its negative impact on the state budget. Just like many families across Tennessee, state government and our department are confronted by a very difficult fiscal reality. While there are tough challenges and hard choices ahead, I am grateful for the positive attitude and public service commitment our staff continues to demonstrate during this extraordinary period.

Thank you for all your hard work during this challenging year. Best wishes for a happy and meaningful holiday season.

Jim

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American
Trails

Partnership Celebrates Completion of Harpeth River Watershed Project

On a cold but sunny Friday afternoon along Carnton creek, Environment and Conservation, the City of Franklin and Williamson County Government celebrated the completion of their first project under a partnership created last year. The Harpeth River Watershed Initiative (HRWI) is part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the three governmental entities that establishes a process for the identification and evaluation of projects that will impact the Harpeth River and its tributaries.

The Eastern Flank Battlefield Park in Franklin was identified in 2007 as a viable project for the new initiative. With funds from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, TDEC led the Stream Restoration Project which has restored the historic creeks at the Eastern Flank Battlefield to their original state. "Through a unique partnership with the city of Franklin, several historic architects and others, we were able to restore two highly degraded streams in the Harpeth River watershed," said Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke. "The success of this stream restoration is the result of a shared commitment from all involved to preserve and protect Tennessee's rich history and natural resources."

"Today we celebrate the first of what I believe will be many joint projects between the State, the City and the County," added Franklin Mayor John Schroer. "Restoring the creeks to their original state has accomplished two extremely significant goals. It aids in our preservation of this historic site and also helps to protect the Harpeth River Watershed. Protecting the



Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Tommy Murdic, Franklin's Charge; and Mark Shore, Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director, celebrate the restoration of Carnton Creek at the Eastern Flank Battlefield in Franklin before it flows into the Harpeth River.

Harpeth River and its tributaries is very important to this community and combining the resources of the various agencies will allow us to work together to accomplish that." Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan echoed these sentiments noting, "The restoration of the streams here at the Eastern Flank Battlefield made the Harpeth a better a river for all of us. Impoundments have been removed. Flow has been increased through the creeks to the Harpeth. Riparian buffer zones along the streams have been established to reduce erosion and sedimentation reaching the creek. These buffers will ensure that the increased flow will also be carrying fewer pollutants when it reaches the main stem of the Harpeth River."

Sloan noted that these results may serve as a model for other communities, "It is my goal that we build upon this particular success

and seek other worthy restoration projects that will benefit the Harpeth River Watershed. The results of this effort have demonstrated what is possible when partners work together to improve our shared natural resources."

The Harpeth River Watershed Initiative is the first of its kind in Tennessee. Under the agreement, the staffs of the City, County, and TDEC meet quarterly to review, collect and develop information concerning potential environmental projects that improve, remediate, or protect the Harpeth River Watershed. Projects are evaluated on a regional watershed basis as well as by individual tributary basis. [Click here](#) to view more information on the City's [Web site](#).

The Tennessee Conservationist Magazine Wins National Outstanding Media Award

For its coverage of trails and trail work across the state, *The Tennessee Conservationist* won the 2008 Outstanding Media Award from American Trails at the National Trails Symposium in Little Rock, Ark. The Outstanding Media Award was given to *The Tennessee Conservationist* because it “has demonstrated significant and sustained efforts to provide positive public exposure and education in the field of trail use, planning, design, or implementation.” In many editions, *The Tennessee Conservationist* has included articles and photographs to support and focus on trails, volunteer opportunities for working on trails, historic trails and the beautiful trails in Tennessee State Parks.

Fran Wallas, a regular volunteer contributor to the magazine as

writer of the series “Great Hikes in Tennessee State Parks,” was on hand in Little Rock to accept the award. “I feel so lucky that I was at the National Trails Symposium at the time the American Trail Association chose to award *The Tennessee Conservationist* such a wonderful honor,” says Wallas. “There were people there from all states, federal agencies, and even from South Korea,” says Wallas.

“This is a great honor for all of the volunteer writers, photographers and subscribers who help make the magazine possible,” says Editor Louise Zepp. Also on hand to help accept the Outstanding Media Award for *The Tennessee Conservationist* was Bob Richards, Tennessee Greenways and Trails coordinator. Richards was also the winner of State Trail Worker Award



(l-r) Fran Wallas, Louise Zepp and Commissioner Jim Fyke with the American Trails 2008 National Media Award trophy presented to *The Tennessee Conservationist* magazine at the biennial National Trails Symposium.

presented at the National Trails Symposium. Read more about the National Trails Awards at www.americantrails.org.

Tennessee Part of Small Business Team Receiving EPA Award

EPA recently recognized the Region IV Small Business Team for their participation on the Region IV Collision Repair Campaign Team. The Award recognizes Region IV State Small Business Environmental Assistance Program’s partnership and contributions to the regional initiative. EPA indicated, “the impact of the States’ involvement exceeded all expectations.”

The objective of the partnership is to reduce risks from toxic air emissions from auto body shops across the Southeast. The partnership outreach tools and training materials address new air environmental regulations and best management practices for the collision repair industry. Team members provided suggestions for outreach approaches, rule development, tool review and

implementation of and participation in training events.

The award was accepted by TDEC’s Linda Sadler, manager, **Small Business Environmental Assistance Program**. Other Program staff include Harold Madison, Ali Mohsenzadeh, Sharon Goodwin-Walker and Donovan Grimwood. The Program provides non-enforcement compliance assistance to mom and pop shops that find it difficult to understand and comply with environmental regulations. Staff review regulations, determine potentially impacted sources, develop notification and assistance strategies, develop compliance assistance tools and work with regulatory programs on outreach activities.



Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan congratulates TDEC’s Linda Sadler, Small Business Environmental Assistance Program manager, on her recent national recognition for the Region IV Small Business Team.

State Employee Recycling Program Receives Top EPA WasteWise Honor

Tennessee state employees are leading by example as they continue waste reduction efforts through the State Employee Recycling Program, which has received the WasteWise State Government Partner of the Year Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the sixth consecutive year. "Year after year, EPA has recognized Tennessee state employees for their commitment to waste reduction and responsible recycling," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "We should be proud of these efforts, and I encourage all Tennesseans to join us in our commitment to better protect and preserve our natural resources by reducing our waste stream."

The State Employee Recycling Program, coordinated by the Department of Environment and Conservation, continues to expand its waste prevention and recycling efforts. With more than 22,000 state employees participating, nearly 800

tons of mixed office paper was recycled in 2007, generating more than \$16,500 in revenue and saving almost \$24,000 in landfill costs. Since the program's inception in 1990, state employees have recycled 15,937 tons of mixed office paper, saving more than \$478,000 in landfill disposal costs while generating nearly \$146,500 in recycling revenue. These recycling revenues are deposited in the Solid Waste Management Fund, which is used to help assist local communities in their solid waste reduction efforts.

"It is important for everyone to think and act in ways that reflect the 3 Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle," said Commissioner Jim Fyke.

"SERP has established a successful recycling process for state employees that continues to deliver positive conservation results for Tennessee."

The program also targets plastic and aluminum recycling, as well as non-traditional items, such as cloth-



Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe, SERP Coordinator George Kesterson and Commissioner Jim Fyke with the 2008 EPA WasteWise State Partner of the Year Award that was presented to the Tennessee State Employee Recycling Program.

ing, coat hangers, eyeglasses and greeting cards, for reuse, donation and recycling. For more information about Tennessee's State Employee Recycling Program, visit the Web site: www.tn.gov/environment/ea/serp.

New Internet Resource for Citizens During Tough Economic Times

The State of Tennessee has launched a new "Help for Tennessee Families" Web site designed to help citizens in these difficult economic times with information about finding a job, job training, access to health care services, and tips for reducing energy and transportation costs. Tennesseans can access the new Web site at www.TN.gov by clicking on "Help for Tennessee Families" or at www.TN.gov/helpforfamilies. Environment and Conservation contributed by providing information on ways to increase energy efficiency and ideas for affordable recreation opportunities at Tennessee State Parks.

Holiday Conservation Tips for a Greener Christmas

There are lots of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle this holiday season, starting with your Christmas tree. A Tennessee grown Christmas tree is one of the very best ways to celebrate the holiday season. Many different varieties are grown in Tennessee, including White Pine, Virginia Pine, Scotch Pine, Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce and Fraser Fir. Choosing a fresh Tennessee tree assures you that your tree has not traveled great distances and been cut for a long time. [Click here](#) for information on balled/burlap trees and the Tennessee Christmas Tree Directory.

A variety of alternative options are available for wrapping up all those presents. Consider putting presents in decorative tins which can be reused, or wrapping gifts in kitchen towels. Use sprigs of holly, berries or other greenery to adorn packages instead of ribbon. [Click here](#) for more green holiday tips.

Still looking for that perfect gift? [Click here](#) to take advantage of the special "Buy 2, Get 1 Free" Tennessee Conservationist promotion available only to state employees. Act before December 16 to share this award-winning magazine dedicated exclusively to Tennessee's authentic natural treasures.



Frito-Lay Fayetteville Achieves Performer Level Status in TP3

A warm tent provided protection from a cold drizzle as state and local officials gathered in Fayetteville on December 4 to congratulate Frito-Lay Fayetteville on achieving Performer level status in the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership program. State Representative Curt Cobb and Representative George Fraley joined Commissioner Jim Fyke to salute Frito-Lay Fayetteville for their leadership on environmental and conservation issues in Lincoln County. Frito-Lay is just the 12th Tennessee site to reach Performer status in TP3, a network of Tennessee households, schools, government agencies, organizations, businesses and industries committed to preventing pollution.

“Frito-Lay is leading the way with your strong commitment to protecting our shared environment through an aggressive Resource Conservation Program and successful Environmental Management System,” said Commissioner Fyke. “I believe it’s a natural extension for Frito-Lay to think about how to delight the customer with tasty snacks in a way that is “best in class” for both your products and your impact on the natural environment. I am extremely pleased that Frito-Lay saw this connection and has made this Fayetteville facility an example of overall environmental effectiveness.” Key results produced by the entire Fayetteville team included:

- ◆ annual water use reduction of more than 14 million gallons
- ◆ electricity savings of nearly 700,000 kilowatt hours per year
- ◆ landfill reduction of 53,000 pounds, and
- ◆ considerable emissions improvements as a result of the reduced energy usage

“The Frito-Lay Fayetteville facility is honored to be recognized by Environment and Conservation for our company’s and our associates’ efforts to conserve and preserve our community’s resources,” said Richard Cole, technical manager at the Fayetteville facility. “As a company, Frito-Lay continues to be committed to environmental stewardship and reaching TP3 Performer status encourages us to continue to aggressively build upon these successes.” Commissioner Fyke noted, “Our department supports TP3 because this partnership is an effective tool in moving Tennessee forward as we make the right decisions today to protect our natural resources for tomorrow. Our team in the Office of Environmental Assistance is responsible for supporting and encouraging all of the ‘Ps’ in the TP3 – both the ‘Pollution Prevention’ and the ‘Partnerships.’ These are very important roles, because pollution prevention translates into:

- ◆ using fewer natural resources,
- ◆ requiring less cleanup and waste disposal,
- ◆ reducing the amount of regulation and enforcement actions the department must take
- ◆ boosting the bottom line

We must have individuals, groups and organizations like Frito-Lay stepping forward to go above and beyond baseline requirements of rules and regulations.”

To achieve Performer status, TP3 program participants are required to develop and complete a five-project plan to help prevent pollution of air, land and water, while reducing waste and conserving natural resources. Performers also implement community outreach and mentoring into their programs. For more information on the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership, please visit www.tn.gov/environment/ea/tp3.



Commissioner Jim Fyke (center) presents Richard Cole (left) and Mark Vantrease (right) with the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Performer level recognition and TP3 Green Flag for the Frito-Lay Fayetteville facility on Dec. 4. Click here for more information on Frito-Lay Fayetteville’s achievements in the TP3 program.

Breast Cancer Survivors Honored During Annual Ceremony

First Lady Andrea Conte and Commissioner Jim Fyke joined TDEC employees on November 19 at War Memorial Auditorium as part of Breast Cancer Survivors' Celebration for state workers.

"Each year, I am honored to take part in the Breast Cancer Survivors' Celebration," said Saya Qualls. "Ironically, it happens right around the anniversary of my diagnosis. Each year, the ceremony reminds me of the love and support that I received from my TDEC family during that time. This year, I was particularly encouraged by the number of long-time survivors, including my special friend Betty Williamson."

The American Cancer Society recommends yearly mammograms for asymptomatic women ages 40 and older and clinical examinations every three years for women ages 20-39



(l-r) First Lady Andrea Conte, Betty Williamson, Glenda Sutton, Myrna Simpkins, Saya Qualls, Varetta Jones, Joyce Dunlap and Commissioner Jim Fyke.

Bob Richards Receives 2008 State Trail Worker of the Year Award

Tennessee Greenways and Trails Coordinator Bob Richards was the recipient of the 2008 State Trail Worker of the Year Award for Tennessee at the recent National Trails Symposium in Little Rock, Arkansas. As Greenways and Trails Coordinator in the Division of Recreation Education Services, Bob has been responsible for the creation of a statewide Geographic Information System for Greenways and Trails. This work involved coordinating with parks, recreation and non-profit organizations across the state to gather the most up to date information about all types of trails.

Bob's professional work has also included trail education/information and he was responsible for updating and publishing the manual "Pathways to Trail Building – 4th Edition of the Tennessee Recreation Trails Manual" which has been made available to individuals and groups all across the state. Additionally, Bob edits the bimonthly Greenways and Trails

Tidbits newsletter which provides trails information for both non-motorized and motorized trails.

"It was an honor to receive the 2008 State Trail Worker Award for Tennessee," said Richards. "I am very fortunate to receive support from enthusiastic trail volunteers, dedicated local park and recreation professionals, committed department leaders and the Commissioner's Council on Greenways and Trails. We continue to add and improve greenways and trails in Tennessee through resourceful partnerships and hard work."

Bob has also volunteered to provide assistance to one non-profit group, the Friends of Beaman Park, on trail design, volunteer training and trail construction projects. For National Trails Day in 2007, he designed and coordinated volunteers to construct a 56-foot long pedestrian bridge over a creek in the park.

"Bob is very deserving of this award," said Recreation Education Services Director Mark Tummons.



Bob Richards and Commissioner Fyke at the Commissioner's Greenways and Trails Council meeting at Radnor Lake.

"He is the undisputed leader in Tennessee when it comes to trail design, development and maintenance. I am proud of his tireless efforts developing and promoting trails and greenways statewide."



Arnwine named 2008 EPA Southeastern Biologist of the Year

Debbie Arnwine, biologist with the Planning and Standards Section of Water Pollution Control, was recently named 2008 EPA Southeastern Biologist of the Year. The Southeastern Biologist of the Year award acknowledges the innovative work of a front line EPA Region 4 State biologist. "It was an honor to be recognized by my peers in the Southeastern Water Pollution Biologists Association," said Arnwine. "I love my work, and it's always nice to be recognized for doing something that you really enjoy." Debbie has worked for the State of Tennessee for twenty-five years.

The criteria for selection include factors such as the innovative nature of the work, the level of complexity, the potential for widespread application of the findings, the level of collaboration with other states and the individual leadership demonstrated by the biologist in their respective program.

Water Pollution Control Director Paul Davis congratulates Debbie Arnwine on being named EPA Southeastern Biologist of the Year.



Rangers Race for the Cure in Memphis

West TN Regional Manager Steve Pardue and Cordell Hull Birthplace State Park Manager Robin Peeler laced up their running shoes and braved sub-freezing temperatures for the St. Jude Marathon in Memphis on December 6. Finishing their marathon in 4 hours and 45 minutes, Steve noted running 26.2 miles is a good way to block out the cold, "Continual strain on your muscles easily drowns out thoughts you would normally be having about how cold it is." Congrats to Steve and Robin for their milestone achievements and helping raise more than \$2.6 million total for St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

State Parks West TN Regional Manager Steve Pardue and Cordell Hull Birthplace State Park Manager Robin Peeler get ready to run the St. Jude's Marathon on December 6 in Memphis.

Meeman Shelby State Park Opens New Horse Trail with Volunteer Help

More than 100 people and 35 horses opened the new horse trail at Meeman Shelby Forest State Park on November 8. The 5-mile trail meanders along a bluff in a manner designed to direct the flow of water run-off to decrease erosion with the largest loop overlooking Poplar Tree Lake. Before hitting the trail, Park Manager Steve Smith explained that the 5.3 miles of new trail now open for horses and hikers would be a trial basis to see how it wears before the full length of 8 miles is completed. He encouraged participants to abide by rules and regulations particular to the horse trail, such as one-way traffic, no tying horses directly to trees and staying on the trail at all times. People were also urged to help out with trail maintenance to keep the trail in good shape and to decrease erosion. "It is amazing the amount of work completed on 5.3 miles of trail in the past two years," said Park Manager Steve Smith. "It took many people with a determination and a love of the outdoors to accomplish this."



Park Manager Steve Smith and Trail Savers President Linda Dennington speaking at grand opening ceremony.

Times and Trails

Scenes from Holidays Past....



Children enjoy a holiday storytime with Mr. and Mrs. Claus at Henry Horton State Park.



Holiday music fills the air during Crockett Christmas at Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park.

*Happy Holidays
from
Tennessee State Parks!*



People, Projects and Priorities



Ranger Allison Humble and Wendy Cole celebrate Christmas Homecoming at Norris Dam State Park.

...Usher in Holidays Present



Christmas in the Park brings visitors to Cove Lake State Park.

Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Park gather for Christmas.

Seasons Greetings!



Christmas lights mark the road to the Wrangler Campground at Chickasaw State Park.



Visitors can experience Christmas on the Upper Cumberland at Cordell Hull Birthplace State Park.



Holiday colors light Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park.



Ramble and Natchez Trace State Park's Christmas float won First Place in Parsons' Parade and Third Place in Lexington's Parade. Park staff have decorated and entered local parades for the past three years.



Holiday spirit even finds the links along The Tennessee Golf Trail at Paris Landing.

Happy New Year!



Shop Tennessee

The billboard at www.tn.gov now has a **"Shop Tennessee"** feature, which gives information on a variety of Tennessee gift ideas, including Tennessee State Parks gift certificates and Conservationist magazine subscriptions. There are more details on those and other Tennessee gifts if you click on the billboard.

December Service Anniversaries

5 Years

Courtney Brame, Air Pollution Control
Patrick Cromer, Water Pollution Control
Satu Davenport, Montgomery Bell State Park
Tami Kelley, Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park
Donna Lewis, Montgomery Bell State Park
Ricky Putman, Roan Mountain State Park
William Ramsey, Rock Island State Park
Billie Sanders, Paris Landing State Park
Robert Stem Jr., Long Hunter State Park
Wayne Stuck, Nashville EFO, Water Supply
James Wilkinson, Meeman-Shelby State Park
Brandon Williams, Montgomery Bell State Park
David Wooten, Paris Landing State Park

10 Years

Michale Atchley, Knoxville EFO, WPC
Linda Bilbrey, Air Pollution Control
Phillip Dooley, T.O. Fuller State Park
Jennifer Innes, Chattanooga EFO, WPC
Roger McCoy, Natural Areas
Sarah Nicley, Big Ridge State Park
Doug Warden, Air Pollution Control

15 years

Jeffrey Beshiers, Chickasaw State Park
Don Davis, Chattanooga EFO, Air Pollution Control
Dave Dowlen, Solid Waste Management
Ray Evans, Knoxville EFO, Water Pollution Control
Sherry Glass, Columbia EFO, Water Supply
Sid Jones, Energy Oversight Oakridge
Ed King, Solid Waste Management
Jeff Law, Public Affairs
Susan Salmon, Reelfoot Lake State Park

20 years

Sharon Harrison, Memphis EFO, UST
Leesa Head, Water Supply

25 Years

Debbie Arnwine, Water Pollution Control
Barbara Blaylock, Cumberland Mountain State Park
Teresa Thomas, Roan Mountain State Park

30 Years

Louis Bordenave, Solid Waste Management
Gwen Kirk, Air Pollution Control



Cindy Patton, Memphis Environmental Field Office Director, receives her 15 Year Service Award from Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan during a recent EFO directors meeting in Nashville. Congratulations Cindy!

Start Each Day with the Hot News

Read the **TDEC Morning Briefing** on the department Intranet.
 The TDEC Morning Briefing captures current news articles and stories impacting Environment and Conservation.

[Click here](#) to get today's Morning Briefing.

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